

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A remote keyless entry (RKE) transmitter for selectively
2 controlling operation of at least one device comprising:
3 a portable fob housing;
4 a microphone mounted to the fob housing for receiving a voice
5 command;
6 a processor connected to the microphone and arranged to detect and
7 recognize the received voice command, wherein the processor is arranged to generate
8 a control signal associated with the recognized voice command; and
9 a transmitter responsive to the processor for transmitting the control
10 signal to a receiver unit to control operation of the at least one device.

- 1 2. The transmitter of claim 1 wherein the processor comprises a
2 microprocessor programmed to recognize a received voice command and generate
3 an associated control signal.

- 1 3. The transmitter of claim 1 further comprising a memory
2 connected to the processor for storing a table of key words, each of which is
3 associated with a selected one of a plurality of control signals.

- 1 4. The transmitter of claim 3 wherein the processor is arranged
2 to learn a new key word, and store the learned key word in the table in place of a key
3 word already stored in the table.

- 1 5. The transmitter of claim 3 wherein the processor is arranged
2 to learn a new key word, and store the learned key word in the table in association
3 with a selected control signal.

- 1 6. The transmitter of claim 1 wherein the processor is arranged
2 to learn a key word, and store the learned key word in a memory in association with
3 a selected control signal.

1 7. The transmitter of claim 6 further comprising a programming
2 switch located on the housing for initiating a learning mode for the processor.

1 8. The transmitter of claim 1 wherein the processor is arranged
2 to learn different authorized voice signatures.

1 9. The transmitter of claim 1 wherein the processor is arranged
2 to generate control signals for controlling operation of a plurality of devices, wherein
3 a key word voice command is associated with each control signal.

1 10. The transmitter of claim 9 wherein the processor is arranged
2 to generate control signals to control operation of a vehicle door lock and a garage
3 door opener.

1 11. The transmitter of claim 9 wherein the processor is arranged
2 to generate control signals to control operation of a vehicle door lock and a home
3 lighting system.

1 12. The transmitter of claim 9 wherein the processor is arranged
2 to generate control signals to control operation of a vehicle door lock and a home
3 security system.

1 13. A method for selectively controlling operation of a lock on a
2 vehicle comprising:

3 receiving a voice command from a microphone mounted to a portable
4 fob housing;

5 detecting and recognizing the received voice command;

6 generating a control signal associated with a recognized voice
7 command; and

8 transmitting the control signal to a receiver unit located on the vehicle
9 to control operation of the lock.

1 14. The method of claim 13 further comprising:

2 receiving a keyword voice command associated with controlling
3 operation of at least one device in addition to the vehicle lock;
4 generating a control signal associated with the received keyword; and
5 transmitting the control signal to control operation of the associated
6 device.

1 15. The method of claim 14 wherein the additional device
2 comprises a garage door opener.

1 16. The method of claim 14 wherein one of the plurality of
2 additional devices comprises a home lighting system.

1 17. The method of claim 14 wherein the additional device
2 comprises a home security system.

1 18. A remote keyless entry (RKE) transmitter for selectively
2 controlling operation of a lock on a vehicle, the RKE transmitter comprising:

3 a portable fob housing; and
4 a transmitter arranged to transmit a control signal to a receiver unit
5 located on the vehicle to control operation of the lock, wherein the improvement
6 comprises:

7 a microphone mounted to the fob housing for receiving a voice
8 command;

9 a processor connected to the microphone and arranged to detect and
10 recognize the received voice command, wherein the processor is arranged to provide
11 to the transmitter a control signal associated with the recognized voice command.

1 19. The transmitter of claim 18 wherein the improvement further
2 comprises a memory connected to the processor for storing a table of key words,
3 each of which is associated with a selected one of a plurality of control signals.

- 1 20. The transmitter of claim 19 wherein the processor is arranged
2 to learn a new key word, and store the learned key word in the table in association
3 with a selected control signal.

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